

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE****DECLARATION Under 37 CFR 1.132**

I (we), the undersigned, declare that I (we) conceived and invented the subject matter disclosed in the patent application Serial No. 10/618,582 filed July 15, 2003 entitled "Method and System for Operating a Plurality of Electronic Variable Optical Attenuators", which has now issued into a US patent No. 6,996,323, to be referred to as "REFERENCE",

and that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the above noted "REFERENCE" has been derived from me (us),

including the invention described and claimed in the US patent application Ser. No. 10/618,604 filed July 15, 2003 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Operating Variable Optical Attenuator By Modulating the Attenuation Thereof", to be referred to as "PATENT APPLICATION".

Thus, the invention described and claimed in the above noted "PATENT APPLICATION" is not the invention made "by another" under 35 USC §102(e) with regard to the above noted "REFERENCE".

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